Part IV.—USEFUL INFORMATION.

CHAPTER I

RECREATIONS

CINEMAS

546 THERE are in Bahrain a number of cinemas, both public and private, which show films in various languages, English, Arabic, Hindustani and occasionally French and Italian. The Bahrain Petroleum Company, through the medium of the BAPCO Club, has an open-air cinema and theatre at Awali, at the former there are nightly (except Sunday) performances of comparatively recent American and British films, the programmes changing twice a week. There is also under construction a large air-conditioned cinema and theatre to which there will be an entrance fee and which will not be restricted to the European employees of BAPCO but will also be open to the general public.

The five cinemas in Manama, the Awal, the Ahli, the Bahrain and the National in Qudabiya and the Pearl Cinema on Government Road near the Government Hospital, the Muharraq Cinema, although they show a majority of Arabic films, often have English language films and usually there are two such films running every evening in Manama and Muharraq. Details of the performances are obtainable by phoning the cinemas and it is usually possible for those interested to have cinema notices sent to them as they appear.

Of the cinemas in Manama and Muharraq, five are especially pleasant in the summer, for they are open-roofed and are consequently very cool. One cinema has two open-air performances every day in the summer and in the winter an indoors performance ; the sixth is air-conditioned.

536 There is no Bahrain theatre but there are a number of amateur dramatic clubs who give public shows from time to time.

CLUBS

575 *The Bahrain Club* (*Nadi al-Bahrain*). This is an Arab club in Muharraq with some 300 members and was founded in 1937 for cultural, social and sporting aims. The club has its own library with a large number of Arabic and English books and the latest newspapers and magazines. The members of the club are most interested in Arabic literature and have staged a number of plays. With the proceeds from the plays and with contributions from local merchants the club has been able to purchase its own buildings. Members of the club organize basket-ball and volley ball teams and also play a number of indoor sports.